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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **PIRELLI & C. S.p.A.** [IT/IT]; Via Gaetano Negri, 10, I-20123 Milano (IT).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **DAI, Guojun** [CN/IT]; c/o Pirelli S.p.A., Viale Sarca, 222, I-20126 Milano (IT). **SOLINAS, Stefano** [IT/IT]; c/o Pirelli S.p.A., Viale Sarca, 222, I-20126 Milano (IT). **VERONELLI, Franco** [IT/IT]; c/o Pirelli S.p.A., Viale Sarca, 222, I-20126 Milano (IT). **ARIMONDI, Marco** [IT/IT]; c/o Pirelli S.p.A., Viale Sarca, 222, I-20126 Milano (IT).

(74) Agents: **MACCALLI, Marco** et al.; Maccalli & Pezzoli S.r.l, Via Settembrini, 40, I-20124 Milano (IT).

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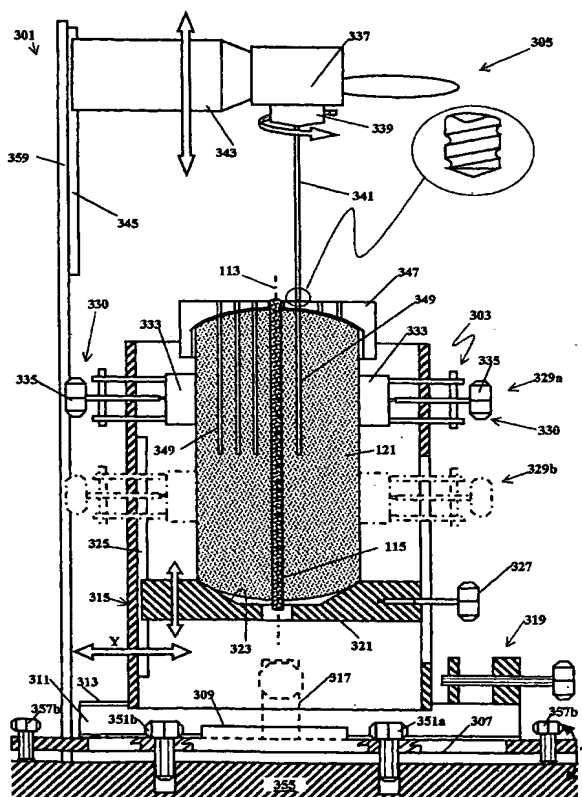
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DRILLING PREFORMS FOR HOLEY OPTICAL FIBERS



(57) Abstract: A method of producing a preform for a holey optical fiber having at least one hole longitudinally extending therethrough, comprises forming a porous preform (121), such as a glass soot preform formed by means of flame hydrolysis, or a gel preform; at least one hole is then formed by drilling (305) the porous preform, the hole extending through the porous preform along the longitudinal direction thereof. A holey fiber can be produced by drawing the holey porous preform, after having submitted it to a consolidation process. A device for drilling the porous preform comprising means for supporting, holding, positioning and drilling the porous preform is also claimed.

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